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Smithville Church begins recovery

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Pastor Wes White's voice carried a hint of concern as he prepared for the worship service on the second Sunday after an EF-5 killer tornado leveled virtually all of the small Monroe County community of Smithville on April 27, including Smithville Church. As he surveyed the large tent erected in the parking lot of the church to temporarily house worship services, he observed, "Last Sunday — the first Sunday after the tornado — we had a full house. I kind of expected that, but this Sunday..."

As the minutes ticked down to the 11 a.m. start of the worship service, however, White discovered his concerns were unfounded. Hundreds of people filled the tent and poured out three sides as the pianist began the prelude. People didn't seem to mind sitting in the direct sunlight outside the tent for the entirety of the service. As a matter of fact, people didn't seem to mind standing in the sunlight after all the overflow seating was taken.

A tremendous crowd had turned out to hear White's sermon on the importance of resurrection from 1 Cor. 15. "The Gospel works because of the resurrection. Because of the resurrection, we are not pitiful. Smithville will go forward by the grace of God. Smithville Baptist Church has not seen its finest days yet. We will go forward because of the resurrection," he said.

After the service, attendees placed fresh-cut flowers on one of the few items from the church to weather the storm, a wooden cross that was found intact in front of the church. Another item recov-



NEW BEGINNING — With their shattered worship center in the background, members of Smithville Church in Smithville on May 8 use fresh-cut flowers to adorn one of the few items to survive the EF-5 tornado that struck the church and town on April 27: a wooden cross found intact in front of the church, Pastor Wes White said while the congregation is currently meeting for worship under a large tent in the parking lot, planning will get underway shortly to rebuild on the site. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

ered virtually undamaged from the church was the stained glass mural from the baptistery, an image of Jesus with his welcoming arms outstretched.

White said a search is underway for meeting space to house the church's activities so the lot on which the destroyed church building rests can be cleared in anticipation of reconstruction.

Meanwhile, the head of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force reported that plans to redeploy the Task Force's mass feeding unit from tornado-stricken areas to Grenada and Brookhaven in anticipation of Mississippi River flooding have been cancelled due to a lack of demand from shelters set up for flood victims.

Jim Didlake, director of men's ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson and coordinator of the Task Force, said there were about 58 people in the shelters and that Task Force volunteers were utilizing the kitchen facilities at North Greenwood Church in Greenwood to provide hot meals for those people.

Officials have speculated that the low turnout at the flood shelters may be due to the slow rise of the Mississippi River and weeks of warning, both of which allowed people plenty of time to arrange their own accommodations with family and friends.

Task Force volunteers have had a busy Spring, with severe weather and record-setting tornado outbreaks from Leakesville in south Mississippi to Clinton in the central section of the state and Smithville in northeast Mississippi.

"We're beginning to look more to long-term recovery efforts now," said Didlake, referring to the ministry of the Task Force in helping communities and individuals rebound from the devastation they have suffered. More information on the recovery phase will be released in coming weeks, he said.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is accepting financial donations to assist disaster victims in Mississippi. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Miss. Disaster Relief" noted on the memo line. The address to mail donations is Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

On-line donations can also be made by visiting www.mbc.org, and clicking on the crawl at the top of the web page entitled, "Latest disaster relief information."

"In-kind" donations, such as food, clothing, or equipment, are not being accepted at this time. For a list of urgent needs, visit www.fbcamory.org and click on "Disaster Relief Information."

For more information regarding the ongoing relief and recovery effort, contact Carol Wright in the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at the above address. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

The ministries of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force are supported by gifts to the work of the Lord through Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.



STANDING ROOM ONLY — Members and visitors on May 8 pack the large tent erected on the parking lot of Smithville Church. The church was destroyed along with most of Smithville on April 27 by one of the most powerful tornadoes ever recorded in Mississippi. Attendance at the worship service, the second held since the tornado struck, overflowed the tent to the left, right, and rear. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



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They did what?



With so many demands for our attention bearing down on us from all directions in our modern age, it's often hard to remember the big story from even three days ago. Has the nuclear emergency in Japan been resolved? Has Leakesville recovered from a major tornado strike earlier this Spring? What about Smithville? Is Donald Trump running for president, or not? Did the electric bill get paid? Who's running for governor? What time are the kids supposed to be at the church to leave on the mission trip? Whatever happened to the revolution in Egypt?

Most people are worn pretty thin these days trying to keep up, or just catch up. Satan knows that, and he accomplishes some of his most evil deeds when we are distracted. Thus did he work to achieve a couple of big goals in the past few weeks while we were looking the other way. Both had to do with the advancement of the homosexual agenda in this country.

First, the Presbyterian Church USA announced May 10 that a majority of its presbyteries — the administrative bodies representing local congregations of a district, roughly akin to Baptist associations — had voted in favor of lifting a longstanding section of the church's constitution that banned the ordination of sexually active, unmarried church officers.

According to the Presbyterian News Service (PNS), the change opens the door for ordination of sexually active homosexuals.

"Clearly what has changed is that persons in a same-gender relationship can be considered for ordination," General Assembly Stated Clerk Grady Parsons told PNS. "The gist of our ordination standards is that officers submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and ordaining bodies (presbyteries for ministers and sessions for elders and deacons) have the responsibility to examine each candidate individually to ensure that all candidates do so with no blanket judgments."

The photo has caused no small controversy. An April advertisement for the mainstream retailer J.Crew features company exec Jenna Lyons painting her five-year-old son's toenails with bright pink polish and the quote, "Lucky for me, I ended up with a boy whose favorite color is pink. Toenail painting is way more fun in neon."

Moms came out of the woodwork to weigh in on the ad. Was it just innocent play or was it instilling gender confusion? Jennifer Lopez claimed she paints her son's toenails blue. Sheri Shepherd, co-host of The View, said she wouldn't have allowed it. Christianity Today blogger Ellen Painter Dollar wrote that she doesn't see the problem in letting her son wear nail polish, especially since "the association of pink with girls and blue with boys was not decreed by God at creation." Countless moms commented on whether giving their little men a manicure was harmless or hurtful to their self-identities.

That's just the moms. Psychologists and cultural organizations had their take on the nail polishing pic. One group claimed the ad was targeting women with gender-confused boys and pushing a transgender message. A Psychology Today contributor claimed, "Gender identity comes from inside, not

GUEST OPINION:

Gender bending: the new norm?

By Katie McCoy
Ft. Worth



from something that you paint on your toenails." Another psychology expert said, "He looks happy! This has no bearing on gender identity." A scathing Fox News article by Dr. Keith Ablow advised the J.Crew mom to, "At least put some money aside for psychotherapy for the kid."

In a gender-bending world, even these innocent habits don't seem quite so disconnected from an androgyny-loving culture. We've all seen the female wrestlers, the unisex fashion trends, the male models who look like women, and the dainty-looking starlets who rock the boyish pixie cut. The trend toward aggressive girls and effeminate boys isn't just encouraged — it's celebrated. Whatever your opinion on the issue, we're all trying to answer the same basic question: Is there more to our gender differences than just biology? Is there a purpose to our creation as male and female

beyond cultural norms or traditional family values?

According to Ephesians 5:22-33, yes! When you and I express our gender within our culture, we're mirroring the Gospel to our culture. When we mirror Christ's relationship to His Church within our male-female relationships and interactions, it puts the Gospel on display and brings glory to Jesus Christ. As the Psalmist said, "For You formed my inward parts, You knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). We were intentionally created to be male or female so that we would intentionally portray the Gospel.

The current trend toward androgynous gender-bending isn't a sign that we're overcoming unfair stereotypes, creating a more tolerant society, or becoming better human beings. It's a judgment for suppressing the truth and denying what God has revealed about Himself in His

The Presbytery of Mississippi is listed by PNS as voting "no" on the change.

Secondly, the U.S. Navy has confirmed that its chief of chaplains, Rear Admiral M.L. Tidd, recently issued a memorandum that essentially cleared the way for Navy chaplains to perform same sex marriage ceremonies once the U.S. Defense Department formally drops the present Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy that allows homosexuals to serve in the military only as long as they don't affirm their sexual orientation.

Interestingly, Tidd's biographical information lists a chaplaincy endorsement from the Presbyterian Church USA and membership in the National Capital Presbytery that voted "yes" on the church's constitutional change.

Cable News Network (CNN) reported that Tidd decided to suspend the memorandum "until further notice," however, after he received several critical inquiries from the offices of U.S. congressmen and senators.

"Congress should not be misled by the Navy's equivocation," Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness in Livonia, Mi., told CNN. "This weather-vane policy is likely to change back as soon as all the

branches of service get on board and Congress looks the other way."

High-ranking officials in the U.S. Department of Defense have indicated in congressional testimony that the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy may be repealed as early as this summer.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, six states and the District of Columbia issue marriage licenses to same sex couples: Massachusetts, Connecticut, California (valid before Prop 8), Iowa, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Three additional states recognize same sex marriages from other states: Rhode Island, New York, and Maryland. Ten more states offer some form of spousal rights to unmarried couples, including same sex couples.

Most people probably don't know that — or the extent of it, anyway — because they're too busy. Too bad. We need to be keeping up with these issues. If we don't, they creep past us without our noticing. It may be that we have to miss a few ball games or put down the remote control for a little while, but it's worth it. Let's get busy.

creation (Romans 1:18-27). When gender is reduced to reversible hormones and roles are reduced to changeable traditions, it's the result of God permitting the full-st expression of self-loving idolatry (Romans 1:26-27). Gender-bending and all of its cultural manifestations are the subtle symptoms of an outright rebellion. As we become comfortable with terms such as "pre-assigned gender roles" and questions like, "What gender were you at birth?" we're hearing the false message that we are the gods of our sexuality. "It's just a lifestyle. It's just a trend. It's just nail polish."

Today's young men need to hear the words of King David to Solomon, "Be strong, and show yourself a man," (1 Kings 2:2) and today's young women need a generation of modern-day Abigails to emulate (1 Samuel 25).

In a world of pink nails and princess boys, God's people need to know that there is far more to our gender differences than just biology.

Katie McCoy is graduating with a master of divinity in Women's Studies degree from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth and writes for UnLockingFemininity.com, an online magazine for women, where a version of this column first appeared. Her commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

NAMB planning major push into Quebec

MONTREAL, Quebec (BP) — It's still possible to visit 1,000 Quebec communities and never see an evangelical church, a staggering fact that Canadian church planting leaders face as they gather momentum for the Send Montreal church planting effort.

Baptist leaders from Canada and the United States met in mid-April to discuss plans for Send Montreal in the first of many local/regional gatherings to convene around the church planting strategy Send North America, an initiative being launched this year by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Alpharetta, Ga.

Send Montreal coalition members set a goal of starting 225 churches in Montreal and other communities in Quebec by 2020, which would include 199 French-speaking churches.

The coalition assigned two church planters, Quebec native Francois Verschelden, pastor of Connexion in Montreal, and Ron Young, pastor of Renaissance Bible Church in Rawdon, the task of designating 25 initial locations for new works in the province.

The group also gave priority to identifying key people and churches in Canada and the United States who can join the team in planting, partnering,

and sending.

"I believe some of Quebec's greatest indigenous leaders have yet to be discovered, and it's our job to unearth them," said Jeff

Christopherson, church planting leader for the Canadian National Baptist Convention (CNBC) and NAMB's vice president for the Canada region, during the April 14-15 sessions.

"It's inconceivable to a lot of people that there could be that many communities in one province without the Gospel. It's our job to make these realities known," he said.

Particularly in the Montreal metropolitan area, the unchurched population exceeds 99% of its 3.2 million people

— but the secularization of Quebec, whose citizens ousted the dominant Catholic rule and replaced it with a resistance to organized religion in the Quiet Revolution of the 1960s — has extended to all outlying areas.

With a population of nearly



MAKING PLANS — John Mark Clifton (right), a former Montreal church planter and pastor in Kansas City, Mo., talks about a strategy for mobilizing Southern Baptist churches to partner with Montreal church planters Francois Verschelden (middle) and Ron Young. (BP photo)

six million (Quebec's total population is 7.3 million), the French-speaking Quebecois are considered the largest unreached people group in North America. They also could be among the hardest to reach, but they're the key to the province.

"If we are going to reach Quebec, then we have to reach the vast majority, which is French-speaking," Verschelden said.

A general aversion to organized religion and a disinterest in anything that isn't French Quebecois has made church planting efforts an uphill struggle for Southern Baptists and other evangelical groups. The hardness of the Quebecois spiritual soil has at times removed it from the purview of many evangelicals who've opted rather to plant English-speaking churches.

"My parents are French Quebecois. My relatives have been here since 1642," Gerry Taillon, executive director of the Canadian National Baptist Convention, said. "This is the most spiritually needy and

hardest part of Canada and the most religiously apathetic, but I also believe God is doing many things here and I believe our job is to partner together and start a critical mass of churches in this province."

As NAMB gears up to launch Send North America at the Southern Baptist Convention's 2011 annual meeting in Phoenix in June, Toronto and Vancouver will join Montreal as areas of special need with a priority of uncovering indigenous leadership and mobilizing churches to partner with church planters through these key Canadian metropolitan areas.

In addition to Verschelden, Young, Taillon, and Christopherson, the Send Montreal gathering included Peter Blackaby, a CNBC mobilization catalyst; Jacques Avakian, a national missionary with NAMB; John Mark Clifton, a former Montreal church planter and pastor of Wornall Road Church in Kansas City, Mo.; and Mark Hobafcovich, a member of NAMB's multi-ethnic team.



REFINED, BUT LOST — The Montreal cityscape of Old World Catholic architecture and modern structures sprawls toward the Fleuve Saint Laurent. Once a Catholic stronghold, Montreal has become a socialist, secular metro region with a distinct Quebecois culture of refinement and lostness. (BP photo)

Graham recuperating

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — Following is statement from Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C.: "Evangelist Billy Graham returned to his home in Montreal, N.C. early Sunday afternoon (May 15) following a five-day stay at nearby Mission Hospital in Asheville for treatment for pneumonia. Mr. Graham was hospitalized early on Wednesday, May 11. Physicians for the 92-year-old evangelist say his response to treatment has been excellent, and that he has regained strength, but emphasized that his recovery will be slow. He has responded very well to treatment, with progressive improvement since his admission," said Lucian Rice, MD, Mr. Graham's primary care physician. "We expect continuing recuperation at home with very gradual recovery, returning to normal activities over several weeks. I'm delighted that he has come back this fast." Dr. Rice noted that Mr. Graham had experienced no complications as of his discharge."

Looking back

10 years ago

The North American Mission Board is holding what is believed to be the first missionary commissioning service in Mississippi on May 20 at First Church, Jackson.

20 years ago

Saying he plans to attend the June 4-6 Southern Baptist Convention as an elected messenger, Daniel Vestal steadfastly denies that formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship constitutes a new convention even though more than 5,000 attended the CBF annual meeting.

50 years ago

Mississippi Baptist causes become the recipient of nearly \$100,000 from the estate of the late Rex F. Reed, Tupelo businessman and Christian layman who died in January of 1960.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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ZLUGK.

FLGDR LWU: WCWU

Clue: D = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Exodus Twenty-Two: Twenty

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THE BEST THAT NEVER WAS

In the fall of 2010, there was a sports documentary that was on television entitled, *The Best that Never Was*. The film, two hours in length, was the story of Marcus Dupree, the incredibly gifted athlete from Philadelphia, Miss. Of all of the high school football players that have come to the college ranks, probably none has had more accolades and press and possibly none were even remotely as talented, fast, and strong as Marcus Dupree. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 150 schools were trying to recruit him and Marcus Dupree signed with the University of Oklahoma. He had an incredible freshman year. As he came to his sophomore year, Sports Illustrated had him on their cover and touted him as potentially the first person ever to win the Heisman Trophy in their sophomore year.

Marcus Dupree was good. He went back in his sophomore year to play for the University of Oklahoma, in what would be the last game that he would play in college, against the University of Texas. He played in that game and was injured. He went home to Philadelphia and never returned to Oklahoma. Later he would enroll at the University of Southern Mississippi, but he never played there. Eventually he signed a pro contract, which would amount to the largest contract ever signed by an athlete up to that point. Though he signed for and played for the New Orleans Breakers in the newly formed USFL, he would again be injured and never again play football.

While not everyone around us is a gifted, professional athlete, the Marcus Dupree story is lived out in dozens of biblical characters. Possibly the best known is Samson. It could easily be said of him, "He was the best that never was!" Just think about the man Samson, who had so much to offer.

He was from a godly family. Good roots are important in a world that seems to be ravaged by dysfunctionality. Samson came from a good home. The problem is that as important as having good parents who want to do the best for their children and the right thing before God, there is no guarantee that they will not have children who make wrong decisions that have consequences.

Samson was focused on good things. He was a chosen leader among God's people and for God's people. He started out wanting to do excellent things. In fact, he accomplished good things. That too is neither a prohibition nor a guarantee of success or avoiding failure.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

He had great opportunities. Samson was gifted, enormously influential, and seemingly always in charge. Yet with all of the possibilities that were set before him, it seems as though the majority of the opportunities were squandered.

Samson foundered and then failed in gut-wrenching ways. It is the only way that you can describe it. There are no words that can convey adequately what this man felt in the depths of his despair and failure. How did he get there? Well, he played with sin. Anytime you begin to play incrementally with doing evil — stepping across the line knowing that you can quickly step back, and delving into an area that at the time seems so innocent and yet is outside the boundaries — it leads to tragedy. Sin always wins. You play a game with sin and you will always come up short on the scoreboard. You may look like, act like, and even think that you are far ahead. You think you can manage it and nothing will ever happen, but so did Samson.

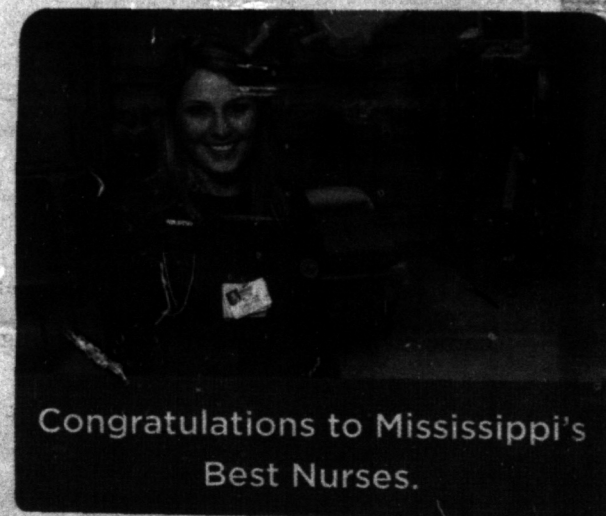
Samson ignored discipline in his life. Not only did Samson play with sin, he ignored exercising discipline in his own life. He ignored it when God wanted to put discipline in his life. He could not or would not control his own passions. I sometimes tell that I guess I have only had one original thought in my lifetime. I do not ever remember reading it or seeing it in print so I think that the only original thought that I have ever had is, "Giftedness without discipline is a curse."

It seems as though every day I see that reality in somebody's life. Thousands of times, over and over, I have

seen someone with a great gift of musical ability, personality, speaking ability, leadership ability, great mental capacity, strength, and on and on the giftedness goes, but the person does not live a disciplined life. Ultimately, their giftedness turns to wreck and ruin them. There may have been dozens or hundreds of times that someone tried to encourage them in a right direction but they ignored it until finally they lost it all just like Samson.

Many things are sad about Samson's life, but probably none sadder than the fact that his failures are far more significant and better known than any or all of his successes. In some ways, he certainly might have been the best that never was, but we should not, must not, and cannot stop there. Every one of us has had opportunities that we did not follow through and things we could have done and did not do. We have skills we could have used but tragically we missed making a difference.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.



Congratulations to Mississippi's
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BAPTIST MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE congratulates all the 2011 Mississippi Nurses Association's Nightingale Award recipients. We are especially proud of the nominees from our own hospitals across the state. All of you demonstrate why nurses are the most trusted professionals in the country.

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THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Summer 2011

Memorial – "mə-`mōr-ē-al"

adj. 1. Serving to preserve remembrance;
2. Of or relating to memory.

n. 1. Something that keeps remembrance alive...something that commemorates;
2. An opportunity to Reflect on the Past, Rejoice in the Present, and Resonate throughout Eternity.

One of my favorite verses of Scripture is Proverbs 22:1 in which the writer of wisdom asserts, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold" (KJV). In Hebrew thought, a person's name was much more than a mere appellation. Rather, one's name represented the entirety of the individual inclusive of reputation and character. In simple terms, a name identified a person while painting a life-sized and lasting portrait of that person.

Another favorite verse of mine offers the important parenting principle "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6, KJV). This verse encourages parents to be "twig benders" by taking seriously the responsibility and privilege to shape their children toward a Christ-like pattern of life.

Sadly, the time-frame for some parents to "train up a child" is less-than-anticipated due to an accident, illness or other event that shortened their child's life. Such was the experience of several friends of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation who, in the midst of their sorrow, determined to commemorate the "good name" and "loving favour" of their son or daughter and keep remembrance alive by establishing a memorial endowment with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

This edition of *Foundation News* highlights some of these memorials that provide the opportunity for parents, other family members, and friends to Reflect on the Past and Rejoice in the Present regarding a life that continues to provide encouragement and financial blessings that will Resonate both now and throughout eternity.



Daniel Hall
Executive Director
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

Clay Allen Herrin Memorial Scholarship

Clayton Allen Herrin was a young man who was "molded under God's direction" as he lived out the meaning of his name on a consistent basis in both private and public settings. Clay's father, the Rev. Archie Herrin (Associational Missions Director for the Tri-County Baptist Association) commented, "the most precious memory I have of Clay was when I would pass his bedroom door and see him with his Bible on his bed before him." According to Archie, Clay was consistent in his private devotions and quiet time throughout his life. Through these special moments, Clay was being molded after God's direction.

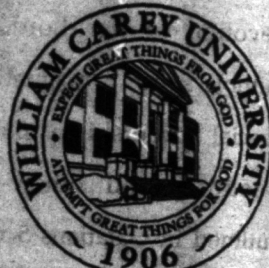


CLAY ALLEN HERRIN

witnessed many spiritual victories through the faithful prayers of numerous concerned friends. Although Clay's physical vitality was waning, he continued serving as God's hands and feet by touching the lives of his doctors and nurses.

In July 2000, at the age of 26, Clay Herrin was called to "higher service" with his Lord. Clay's life and service, however, continue through the "Clayton Allen Herrin Memorial Scholarship." Established through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation by his parents, Barbara and Archie, and his sister Michelle, this memorial fund is designed to offer financial assistance to ministerial students from the Tri-County area attending William Carey University.

In regards to this memorial, Barbara and Archie offered, "We are so pleased that Clay's ministry will continue until Jesus comes and that the lives of young ministers will be blessed. We look forward to following the ministry of those receiving Clay's scholarship (and) we thank the Mississippi Baptist Foundation for their assistance in establishing the Clayton Allen Herrin Memorial Scholarship and managing these funds."



At his church, the First Baptist Church of Columbia, MS, Clay enjoyed operating a camera as a member of the church's television ministry team. Although Clay may have served "behind the scenes" in this particular role, he was responsible for presenting the church at worship to the local community and beyond. The impact that Clay's ministry had on untold numbers of people as a camera operator will be measurable only in eternity.

After Clay was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy in 1999, he ministered through the television ministry at FBC until he was physically unable to continue. Over the ensuing months, Clay spent many days in the hospital in Hattiesburg. Yet, in the midst of the physical challenges, Clay and his family

Monty Moak Memorial Trust

Randall Montgomery (Monty) Moak was a handsome young man who loved life and lived it to the fullest. Monty - whose name means "Prosperous Spirit" - was wealthy in relationships and has been described as a kind and helpful "people person" who loved others and never met a stranger. Monty was identifiable by the green Volkswagen that he drove within and beyond his community to visit folks. Many of those that Monty visited were senior adults for whom he had great respect and fondness.



MONTY MOAK

Monty had several interests and hobbies including hunting, fishing, swimming, playing football and other sports. Monty was active in his church and was always eager to share his faith in Jesus Christ with others. His favorite scripture was Isaiah 53:6. Sadly, this young man who had so much to offer and seemingly had so much more life to share, was killed in 1976 at the age of seventeen.

Several years after Monty's death, his parents Tom and Willa Moak established the "Monty Moak Memorial Trust" through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The income derived from the

investment of the endowment's corpus is distributed each year through the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Bogue Chitto, MS for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. In 2010, the nearly \$725.00 distribution from this memorial fund exceeded the reported gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of 818 other Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi. Through this memorial, Tom, Willa, and the entire Moak family can reflect on the past and rejoice in the present knowing that the blessings of Monty's life and ministry will resonate throughout eternity.



DANIEL HALL, RANDY LEWMAN, DANNY CREEL, WILLA MOAK, TOM MOAK

Anna Lynn Osborne Memorial Trust

How does one memorialize someone they deeply love? How does one pay tribute to a life well-lived? These questions were posed by John and Nell Osborne following the death of their daughter Anna.



ANNA LYNN OSBORNE

Anna Lynn Osborne had a joy that embraced life to the fullest. She sang, she played, she danced, and she cared deeply for friends. Anna, whose name carries the inherent meaning "Graceful One" and

conveys the spiritual connotation of "Devotion built through faithfulness,"

lived a life that was characterized by a devotion to her Lord, a gracious and humble spirit, a magnetic personality, and special leadership capabilities. Kindness, Goodness and other Christian virtues outlined in Galatians 5 were on display in

and through Anna's life on a daily basis. Rather than promote self or seek personal accolades, Anna had a witness that lifted the spirits of everyone she met. While a lengthy list of fond memories could be compiled by those who knew her, Anna's laughter likely would appear at the top of every list.



NELL AND JOHN OSBORNE

Tragically, Anna was killed in a head-on collision with a drunk driver on June 26, 1976. She was a young, vivacious college student who was just nineteen and full of life. Today, Anna's life and memory symbolize countless numbers of other young people who not only embrace the same ideals that Anna espoused, but whose own lives are full of dreams and possibilities.

In the years following Anna's death, John and Nell Osborne became excited about the idea of establishing a ministry endowment fund as a memorial to their daughter. Recognizing

that the focus of Anna's life could continue, while also providing financial blessings for Kingdom causes, John and Nell sought the assistance of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Reflecting on their visit with Foundation staff, John and Nell noted, "Whereas many banks we investigated charged a considerable management fee, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation did not. We found at the Foundation a supportive atmosphere where our individual situation was handled with care and attention."

"We are not financial planners and we have never understood too well these complicated matters. However, we do understand what this Fund will accomplish. It will keep Anna's memory alive, it will celebrate her life, and it will continue the giving spirit Anna exemplified in life."

With the goals of remembering Anna's influence on others and her love for music, the Osborne family established the "Anna Lynn Osborne Memorial Trust" through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The proceeds from this memorial endowment are

distributed annually to the Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson to benefit the overall music ministry of the church.

Regarding the decision to create this memorial, John and Nell declared, "We are not financial planners and we have never understood too well these complicated matters. However, we do understand what this Fund will accomplish. It will keep Anna's memory alive, it will celebrate her life, and it will continue the giving spirit Anna exemplified in life."



WOODLAND HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

Brad Boatner Memorial Scholarship

During the seventeen-year span of his earthly sojourn, Bradley Paul Boatner lived the very meaning of his name as he exhibited a "merry heart" as a "joyful one" on a daily basis. Not only did Brad's approach to life stem from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, but his actions and attitude toward others revealed a young man who was completely "sold out" to his Savior and Lord.

Brad Boatner was a member of a medical mission team that traveled to Honduras in January, 1994. Brad had prayed about and prepared for the opportunity to volunteer for a mission trip to Honduras in order to witness and minister in a remote mountain area. He could not disguise his excitement concerning the mission experience. Rev. Michael Brister - one of Brad's youth pastors at the Park Place Baptist Church in Brandon - confirmed Brad's desire to serve in Honduras. Brister shared, "One of the last things he said to me was he wasn't coming back. He said he was going to stay in Honduras. He loved the area and loved helping the people."

Following a day of ministering to residents in a remote countryside, the team - a group of thirty-seven that included several Mississippians - began the trek back to their accommodations in Tela via a flatbed truck which traveled along an unpaved, single-lane road on the Honduran north coast between Tela and La Ceiba. According to numerous reports, the Honduran driver moved toward the road's shoulder to allow an oncoming vehicle to pass. When the rain-soaked shoulder couldn't bear the weight of the truck, the flatbed and passengers began tumbling down the embankment. Following a search in the darkness of the early evening, Brad Boatner was found pinned and lifeless underneath the truck.



BRAD BOATNER



Shortly after his death, a spiral notebook was discovered in Brad's locker at Brandon High School where he was a senior. In that notebook, Brad had recorded these words: "Keep God first in your life. Remember God's will is perfect." These words highlight Brad's *modus operandi*, and explain the attitude and motivation that compelled him to volunteer for a mission trip in Honduras where he hoped to share the gospel.

Reflecting on this special young man, Rev. Bobby Williamson encouraged family and friends during Brad's funeral by reminding them of the attitude with which Brad lived his life. Williamson declared, "Brad would want you to have a burden for lost souls; he'd say 'Be a witness.' He would want you to get the biggest group you can and go to Honduras (again)." Williamson stated further, "Brad has found victory in death, and he will change more lives than if he had lived 100 years."

Knowing that Brad had a tremendous impact on people of all ages and backgrounds during his life, and believing that their son's influence will continue until the Lord returns, Gary and Paula established the "Bradley Paul Boatner Memorial Scholarship" through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Proceeds from this fund will perpetuate the memory and ministry of the "joyful one" by providing scholarships for students attending any of the Southern Baptist Convention-supported seminaries or Mississippi Baptist Convention-supported colleges.

On the stone that marks Brad's grave are words that capture the essence of a properly focused life. These words, from a mother's heart, proclaim that Brad Boatner "died in loving service of his awesome God while in Honduras."

Though most of us have experienced the loss of a parent or grandparent, fewer are those who have experienced the death of a child. Yet, in the midst of their heartache, emotional strain, and ongoing sense of loss, Archie and Barbara, John and Nell, Tom and Willa, and Gary and Paula have received a measure of comfort and assurance by the establishment of a memorial endowment. Although several years have passed, these

memorials administered by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation continue offering the opportunity for reflection and rejoicing because the blessing of a life well-lived will continue to resonate throughout eternity. Tom and Willa Moak confirmed this truth in a recent comment, "It has meant so much in our lives to participate in this worthy endeavor. We are assured that this (memorial) will last as long as the world stands."

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Toomsoba Church, Toomsoba



2. Freeny Church, Carthage



3. Branch Church, Morton

1. Toomsoba Church, Toomsoba, recently sent a dozen members to First Church, Stonewall, to aid in disaster relief efforts for tornado victims. David Caves, pastor. Shown are the participants.
2. The children of Freeny Church, Carthage, enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in April. Shown are the participants.
3. The children's group of Branch Church, Morton, delivered flowers they made to all the residents of Scott County Nursing Home, delivering 120 plants. Shown are Zachary Irby, Michael Latham, Avery Gordon, Katelin Scales, Vaden Latham, and Brady Phillipson.
4. The GA's and mothers of Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, attended the mother/daughter weekend at Camp Garaywa. Karen Fahner and Shirley Allen, leaders; Hal Hatten, pastor. Shown are the participants.



4. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto

Visit us online at www.mbc.org to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.

COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey University held a dinner on May 9 to honor Gene Winters, professor of music, who is retiring after 32 years of service to WCU. During the dinner, Tommy King, president of WCU, presented Winters with a framed copy of the resolution passed by the WCU Board of Trustees which grants Winters the rank of Professor Emeritus of Music.



Winters

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FOR SALE: SIX-TIER LIGHTED PATRIOTIC SINGING FLAG (ELIZABETHTOWN, KY). Used for choir cantatas. Manufacturer's Photos available. POC: John Rice, John@sevensvalley.org or 270-765-7822.

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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Calvary Church, Carroll County: Homecoming, May 29; services, 10:30 a.m. with singing and dinner on the pavilion. Lamonda Stanford, music; Billy Little, speaker; Bud Vance, pastor.
2. Union Hall Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming, May 22; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Dennis Dunn, speaker; Billy Joe Deer, pastor; singing by former and present members of the church.
3. West Shady Grove Church, Wayne County: Homecoming, June 5, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mitchell Smith, pastor.
4. LeMoyné Blvd. Church, Biloxi: Revival, May 22 - 25; Sun., 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. nightly; Danny Henderson and "Sidekicks," speaker; Benji Rigney, music.
5. Shiloh Church, Big Creek: Memorial and homecoming, June 5; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck luncheon; Grace, music.
6. Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto: Homecoming, May 29; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and singing, 1:30 p.m.; Bruce McKenzie, speaker; David Montgomery, music; Keith Smith, pastor.

MS POSITIONS

ENTERPRISE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ENTERPRISE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS. Please send resumes to: enterprisebaptist@att.net or Enterprise Baptist Church C/O Minister of Students Search P.O. Box 186 Enterprise, MS 39330

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MAGEE, MS, IS SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR THE FULL TIME POSITION OF CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MINISTER (birth to 6th grade). Resumes may be mailed to FBC Magee, P.O. Box 266, Magee, MS 39111 or emailed to khal@fbcmagee.com

INVERNESS FBC LOOKING FOR P/T MUSIC DIRECTOR. For details call 662-265-5367 or 662-207-0066.

STAFF CHANGES

1. **Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth**, has called Joe Loncar as minister of music and ministry associate upon the resignation of Ray Bennett. He and his wife Kimberly have three children.

2. **North Ripley Church, Ripley**, has called Chris Lewellen as pastor effective Apr. 3. Shown is Lewellen and Carlon, Brody, and Rachel.

3. **Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson**, has called Alan Loving as pastor. Shown is Loving and his family.

4. **CORRECTION:** In the April 28, 2011 edition of The Baptist Record, in the "Staff Changes" section, note that Mike Willoughby also served churches in North Carolina, and the word Mississippi was misspelled. The Record regrets the errors.

Visit us online at www.mbc.org



2. The Lewellens



3. The Lovings

OBITUARY

Richard Allen "Dick" Brogan, 73, of Clinton, died of a heart attack on April 25 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. He served as pastor of several Mississippi Baptist churches and had been active in the areas of civil rights and racial reconciliation since the 1960s. A graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and New Orleans Seminary, he was a regional teacher missionary in the Mississippi Delta for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (now known as the North American Mission Board) in Atlanta, Georgia. He served as director of cooperative ministries with National Baptists for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson; president of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary in Jackson; and director of the Mississippi Baptist Biracial Commission. Brogan retired from the position of consultant in the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Since 2002 he served as a chaplain for Hospice Ministries and as a Faith in Action Coordinator, a service of Hospice Ministries. On October 13, 2007, Brogan completed 50 years as an ordained minister. He is survived by his wife, the former Catherine Jurn of Magnolia, and three children: Beth Callender (Ble), Ricki Coziar, and Ted Brogan. A memorial service was held on April 28 at Northside Church in Clinton.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Pursue God's Agenda

1 Corinthians 4:1-5, Galatians 1:6-10,
1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

By Bobby McKay

Are you ready? It's coming. You can run, but you cannot hide. What is this great force that I am referring to? It is election year in Mississippi! Call me strange, but I love politics. There is something educational and inspiring about the whole process. No other country in the world has the freedom the United States does to choose our leaders on every level from county to national government. Over the next several months we will be inundated by yard signs, stickers, billboards, balloons and other materials promoting the candidates. There will also be radio and newspaper ads, emails, websites, facebook pages, phone calls, texts, handshakes, back slapping and baby kissing just for your vote. While all these campaign devices can aid in one's decision, they

should not be the determining factor in who you vote for. What usually compels our finger on the touch screen ballot is a candidate's beliefs on the issues that matter most to us. We want to know the person we are voting for will be advantageous to us and that he or she has a plan to get the job done. That "plan" is also known as an agenda.

Were you aware that God has an agenda for His church? Maybe you have forgotten that fact. Perhaps you are in a church where it's a challenge to tell the difference in a business meeting and a political rally. Sides are drawn, people demonstrate allegiance to one group or person, facts are twisted, and many leave angry and discouraged. I cannot be any clearer on this point: if we are not pursuing God's direction for the churches we serve, nothing else matters. No matter how



McKay

great our plans and agenda may seem, if it causes damage to the name of Christ, we have made a major mistake. We continue our study on leadership this week with a reminder.

That reminder is the great leaders of God follow His leading and His commands we, and those we are striving to lead, will suffer.

Measuring Stick

In 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 we see a unique perspective on what it means to follow God's agenda. To be effective spiritual leaders we must possess a great love and compassion for our people. We must seek to encourage them and be a listening ear for them when they speak. However, a lot of leaders make the mistake of listening to all the foolish chatter of critical people. Paul reminds the church at Corinth that his measuring stick was not their approval rating of his work. The One he aimed to please was the only One that could accurately

judge: Jesus. Do not let those you are called to serve take the joy out of your calling.

Make a Stand

The second way in which we can pursue God's agenda is in Galatians 1:6-10. One of the great themes of Paul's ministry was the dangers of false teaching. Paul repeatedly warned believers of those that share "a different gospel". Sadly, two thousand years later, false teachings are at an all time high. Some promise healing that is equal with your faith. Others share a message of prosperity and wealth, and maybe the most damning message of all are those that proclaim Christ is not the only way to God and eternal life. You and I may disagree on many things, but we must make a stand together in our churches that Jesus is the solitary way to true forgiveness and salvation. Paul was so emphatic in this point that he said, "If even an angel from heaven preaches a gospel contrary to this, he is cursed!" Are the "stands" you are making in your local church bringing people closer to Christ?

Model of Service
Paul knew that words were not always enough. 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 is a great insight that all leaders should read. He expresses in these few verses the reminder that we are to love the ones we lead. We should be willing to model love, devotion and service to them at all times. Verse eight is the song of my heart! I paraphrase, "We have such an affection for you we were not only happy to share the gospel with you, but also our very lives. You are that dear to us!" When I read those words, I think about the awesome church I serve in Harpersville. They are the most incredible group of believers that I have been blessed to know. Their love and devotion inspires me to be the best leader I can be. As we model and pursue God's purpose for our own lives, we impact everyone around us to do the same. If you want others to act more like Christ demonstrate what He looks like and serve.

McKay is pastor of Harpersville Church, Harpersville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Be Faithful

Colossians 3:18-4:18

By Cyndi Grace

To be honest, this lesson could go in so many directions but while reading the scripture, verse 17 stood out, "Tell Archippus: 'See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.' Tears steamed down my face as that could have been written to me for I am a great starter! I begin a hobby at full force buying everything I will ever need and I spend much time learning how to hone my craft making! Somewhere along the way, however, I just quit. Right now in the craft closet there are 3 unfinished scrapbooks, and cardstock, stamps and punches enough to make valentines for my whole city but I just quit. Obviously, quitting a hobby is not life shattering, but quit-

ting in my Christian life can be detrimental.

Satan doesn't mind the starting; it is the finishing with which he is most concerned. In Jesus' life, he was consistently trying to convince Jesus to quit...to go another way. We see Satan's ploys while Jesus was in the desert, in the people's rejection, and finally in the garden; Satan always encouraged an "easier" way. Jesus, however, was given a work from His Father and upon the cross we hear His final words, "It is finished!"

There have been times I have just wanted to give up...my cry was, "This is too hard and I am not strong enough!" Many of you have been there, too. Paul had been there and I believe in verses 2-6 he is giving the way to finish and finish well.



Grace

The first thing we are to do is "devote ourselves to prayer!" In the Greek the words, "devote yourselves" mean, "to adhere to or to be in constant readiness." This is the major key to finishing. Jesus finished because He demonstrated that

His power came through constant prayer! Why do we think we can do the work with less than this? We are not only to pray for ourselves but also for others. We often tell people that we are going to pray for them, but do we? Is it something we say or is it something we live? When others are in situations where they are too distraught to pray, we are to stand in the gap for them. While in a very dark time several years ago, had it not been for fellow Christians on their knees for me, I probably would have quit! Are you devoted to prayer as your major source of strength?

The next thing Paul says we are to do is to "be wise in the way you act toward outsiders." (NIV) Outsiders, obviously, were those who did not know Christ. A major result of being devoted to prayer is the discernment gained of what to do in worldly situations. Often we make things harder on ourselves because we speak without His wisdom—choosing instead to speak what we think is right and using the excuse of "just calling it as it is!" I have a speaker friend, Page Hughes, who made t-shirts with "Job 13:5" imprinted on it. It reads, "If only you would shut up and let that be your wisdom!" (HCSB) I have had to be reminded of this more times than I care to! Paul had to deal with outsiders all the time, and yet we see those outsiders coming to faith. Are you walking in wisdom when it comes to those who do not know Christ?

Finally, Paul says that our conversations (NIV) or speech (HCSB) should be full of grace while seasoned with salt.

Another way of saying this is "speak truth with love!" Jesus modeled that for us to everyone he met and while some did not respond well, the world was changed by His very words. What words comes from your mouth? Are you speaking truth but with love and compassion? Are people drawn to Christ because of what you have said?

These powerful precepts in living will help us remain faithful and finish well. Yes, the times are hard but consider the words of Augustine:

You say, the times are troublesome, the times are burdensome, the times are miserable. Live rightly and you will change the times. The times have never hurt anyone. Those who are hurt are human beings; those by whom they are hurt are also human beings. So, change human beings and the times will be changed.

Grace is a conference speaker and Bible teacher and is a member of First Church, Clinton.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbc.org.

BIBLE DRILL TOURNAMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

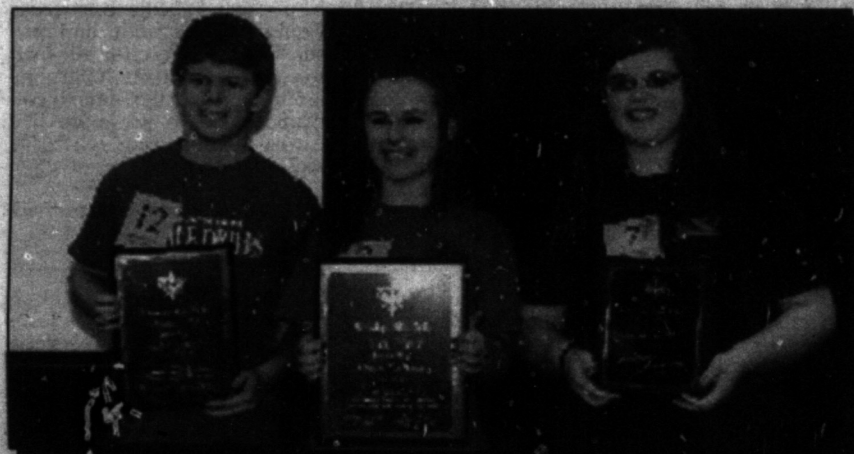
High School Selection Tournament, First Church, Clinton, April 16:
From left - Robbie Baine, 3rd place, First Church, Greenwood, Mid-Delta Association; Hannah Page, 2nd place, Crossgates Church, Brandon, Rankin Association; Rebekah Chancellor, 1st place, Hephzibah Church, Clarke Association; and Marcus Peagler, Director, Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Junior High Selection Tournament, First Church, Clinton, April 16:
From left - Patrick Scoggin, Jr., 2nd place, Highland Church, Jones Association; Courtney Evans, 1st place, Raymond Road Church, Jackson, Metro Association; and Caitlyn Marshall, 3rd place, Parkway Church, X-tended Missions Association.

Nine Year Drillers Scholarship Drill, First Church Clinton, April 16:
From left - Alanna Tedder, 3rd place, Midway Church, Meridian, Lauderdale Association; Anna Rainey, 2nd place, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, Metro Association; Kipp Gill, 1st place, Byhalia Church, Marshall Association.



2011 High School Selection Tournament



Junior High Selection Tournament



Nine Year Drillers Scholarship Drill

BIBLE DRILLS



1a. Lena Church, Lena

1. Lena Church, Lena, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown, photo 1a, are Ryan Sessums; photo 1b, Colton Alexander, Layton Clark, Jimmy Files, Robin Sessums, Bree Davidson, Maggie Alexander, and Lauren Parker.

2. Magnolia Church, Laurel, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are Alyssa Garick and Joshua Pugh.

3. Children and Youth Bible Drillers from Calvary Church, Starkville (front row, left to right): Emma

Powe, Kenzie Claire Burchfield, Eric Separs, Ella Wubben, and Williams Bagwell; (second row, left to right) Abbie Ammon, Ellis Ann Jackson, Mary Beth Woodward, Noah Aweau, and Jacob Wubben; (back row, left to right) Caleb Pugh, Rylee Burchfield, Abigail Arinder, Anna Willers, Grant Arinder, Garison Arinder, Isaac Jackson, and Nathaniel Willers.



2. Magnolia Church, Laurel



1b. Lena Church, Lena



The Baptist Record
P.O. Box 530
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3. Calvary Church, Starkville